Use of insecticides in Agriculture

548. SHRI SATISH PRADHAN: Will the Minister of AGRICULTURE be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that acceptability of Indian vegetables and other agricultural produces is very low in comparison with other countries;

(b) whether it is due to excessive use of insecticides of use of hazardous insecticides; and

(c) whether Government have identified such insecticides and if so, what action Government propose to take in this regard?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF NON-CONVENTIONAL ENERGY SOURCES WITH ADDITIONAL CHARGE OF THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF AGRICULTURE (SHRI S. KRISHNA KUMAR): (a) to (c) Central acceptability of Indian vegetables and other agricultural products is not very low in comparison with other countries. Although there is a growing concern regarding pesticides in India is still fairly low compared to a number of other countries.

Occasionally, there have been complaints regarding high level of residues of some pesticides like DDT, BHC. Therefore, Government have taken the following measures:

(i) The use of DDT has been banned in Agriculture w.e.f. 26.5.1989.

(ii) The use of BHC has been banned on vegetables, fruits and oilseed crop as well as for preservation if foodgrains w.e.f. 30-10-1990.

(iii) The use of 12 pesticides has been banned and restrictions have been imposed on 13 pesticides.

(iv) To reduce the use of pesticides, 36 varieties in 12 vegetable crops resistant to disease and pests have been developed and recommended by All India Coordinated Research Project on vegetable Crops for cultivation in the country.

(v) Integrated Pest Management is being popularised to minimise the use of pesticides.

Prices of oilseeds

549. SHRI K. K. VEERAPPAN:
SHRI V. GOPALSAMY:

Will the Minister of AGRICULTURE be pleased to state:

(a) whether Government are aware of the fact that there is a steel fall in the prices of oil seeds including coconuts; and

(b) if so, what steps are being taken to protect the interest of farmers engaged in the cultivation of oilseeds?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF NON-CONVENTIONAL ENERGY SOURCES WITH ADDITIONAL CHARGE OF THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF AGRICULTURE (SHRI S. KRISHNA KUMAR): (a) The prices of all major oilseeds, on the whole, have depicte a downtrend during 1992-93. However, prices of copra in March, 1993 ruled higher when compared with the prices in March, 1992.

(b) In order to protect the interest of oilseeds growers, the Government, based on the recommendations of Commission for Agriculture Costs and Prices has been fixing the Minimum Support Prices (MSP) at much higher levels in respect of groundnut, rapeseed/mustard, toria safflower, sunflower-seed and soyabean. Depending upon the need, the MSP of copra are also being fixed. The National Agricultural Cooperation Marketing